Cotton production

1121. SHR1 CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the estimated production of major varieties of cotton and the entire crop during the last three years including current year till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHA1 SHAH): The production of cotton during 1987-88 and 1988-89 (variety-wise) is estimated as below: -

Variety	Production (In lakh bales of 170 kgs. each)	
	1987-88	1988-89
Superior lo: ig (27 mm & above)	13-2	25. 7
Long (24. 5 mm 26mm).	9. 7	8. 9
Superior medium (22mm to 24ram)	33. 9	41. 5
Medium (20mm to 21-5 mm)	1. 2	3. 1
Short (19mm & below)...	5. 8	8. 2
TOTAL (ALL INDIA):	63. 8	87. 4

The final estimates of production of major varieties of cotton for the years 1989-90 are yet not received from a number of States. However, the All-India production of cotton during 1989-90 is estimated at 114. 1 lakh bales.

The final estimates of production of cotton for the current year i. e. 1990-91 have not yet become due from the States. However according to the preliminary assessment, the output this year is currently estimated at about 106 lakh bales.

Request from North Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for Central control on tourism

1122. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether the North Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry has urged Government to declare tourism as a Central Subject to give necessary policy thrust and direction to tourism industry in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to give a thrust to tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SMT. USHA SINGH): (a) **No. Sir.**

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps initiated by the Government to attract more tourists to India include liberalisation of charter policy, introduction of multi-entry visas for a period of 5 years, provision for the payment of visa fees by cheques/credit cards, improvement of touri'st facilitation, relaxation of rules regarding restricted area permits, up-gradation of tourism infrastructure] facilities, creation of money changing facilities in hotels and other establishments, etc. The year 1991 has also been declared as "India Tourism Year" to improve the image of India, as a holiday destination.